

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 923
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Bobbie Allen Staley,
longtime principal of Mitchell-Neilson Primary
School in Murfreesboro, on her retirement.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those educators who have given unreservedly of their time and talents for the benefit of this state's most precious natural resource, our children; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Dr. Bobbie Allen Staley, who has served with distinction as principal of Mitchell-Neilson Primary School in Murfreesboro since 1991; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Staley graduated from high school in Liberty, Tennessee; attended Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, attended Maryville College in Maryville, Tennessee, and received her Bachelors degree in Elementary Education from Middle Tennessee State University in 1963. In 1969, she earned her Masters degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; in 1975, she earned her Doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, she started her laudable educational career at Short Mountain Elementary School as a 3rd and 4th grade teacher in 1963. Dr. Staley went to Belle Morris Elementary School in Knoxville and from there became acting principal at West Haven Elementary School, also in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Staley resumed teaching in 1971 at Guthrie Elementary School in Memphis and at that point, decided to pursue higher education as a graduate assistant at Memphis State University; and

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WHEREAS, in 1975, she became acting director of Professional Laboratory Experiences and an assistant professor in the Department of Education at Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, she became an assistant professor and supervisor of student teachers at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, her unending love for classroom teaching led Dr. Staley back to classroom teaching at West Side Elementary School in Cannon County in 1978, while teaching elementary courses in science, math, social studies and language arts at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, the Murfreesboro City School System requested that Dr. Staley teach at Reeves-Rogers Elementary School in 1979; and

WHEREAS, her next teaching assignment was at Northfield School in Murfreesboro, which benefited from her outstanding teaching abilities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Staley once again answered the call to work in administration and served briefly as assistant principal for Mitchell-Neilson Primary and Mitchell-Neilson Elementary Schools in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, she became principal at Mitchell-Neilson Primary School. Although acquiring a principalship is usually a long, touch, and competitive process, it is noteworthy that through petitions, letter drives and telephone calls, Dr. Staley already had the unanimous support of Mitchell-Neilson parents and teachers to serve as their leader; and

WHEREAS, an intellectually brilliant, scholarly, thoroughly trained and experienced educator, Dr. Staley's leadership style has been a reflection of her own personality which is to lead quietly and by example, handle problems directly but kindly, be fair, be thoughtful and always, always make decisions which are in the best interest of the children to be served. Her school has continued its reputation of excellent performance on achievement, emotional and developmental support for the young child and parental involvement in the school program. She is an educator who will always be "gentle on our minds" for the competent and lovely way she has led her school of kindergarten through 2nd grade children into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we specially recognize Dr. Bobbie Allen Staley on her 31 years of significant contributions to the educational process; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Dr. Bobbie Allen Staley and wish her a happy and successful retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.